

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the present application to place the application, as a whole, into *prima facie* condition for allowance at this time. Applicant submits that substantial care has been taken to avoid the introduction of any new subject matter into the application as a result of the foregoing amendments.

Claims 1-4 and 11-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 94/04622 A1 (hereinafter the '622 patent). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-4 and 11-18.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, and solely for purposes of expediting prosecution of the present application, and without in any way conceding to the Examiner's rejection, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 18 to require, among other limitations, that "the thermally stable, non-woven, fibrous paper further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of polyimide friable balloons, polyimide powders, and polyimide microspheres." Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited prior art, in any way, discloses the structure expressly required in independent claims 1 and 18.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 18 should be deemed allowable over the prior art of record. Inasmuch as claims 2-4 and 11-17 ultimately depend from independent claim 1, such claims should likewise be deemed allowable at the present time.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the basis for rejection of the above-identified claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has been overcome and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based upon the above-identified reference are respectfully requested.

Applicant further submits that any subsequent 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection based upon the above-identified reference, either alone or in combination with the prior art of record, would be improper inasmuch as there is no fair teaching or suggestion to modify the structures of the above-identified reference to, in turn, arrive at Applicant's invention as claimed.


Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in *prima facie* condition for allowance at the present time. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and passage toward issuance thereof.

If any other charges or fees must be paid or credited in connection with this communication, they may be paid out of our Deposit Account No. 50-2131.

Respectfully submitted,

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